

Applicant: Pauli Koutonen et al.
Application No.: 10/517,893
Response to Office action dated Mar. 21, 2007
Response filed June 13, 2007

Remarks

Claims 8–19 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Mar. 21, 2007, claims 11, 12, 16 and 19 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. Claims 8–14 and 16–19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious in view of the disclosure of JP 9315632. Claim 15 was rejected as obvious in over JP '632 further in view of Griffin. In addition, claims 8–14 and 16–19 were rejected as obvious over Müller et al. Claim 15 was rejected as obvious over Müller et al. in view of Griffin.

Claim 8 has been amended to refer to “hardness distribution” throughout.

Section 112 rejections

Paragraph [0033] discloses how the method is employed on successive sets, since the testing is carried out after a set has been wound. Claim 11 has been amended to more clearly set out this method.

The examiner has objected to claim 16 as indefinite, and queries whether the claim language is referring to first and second distinct rolls, or whether to different portions of web. The method of claim 16, is supported in ¶ 0021, “In accordance with the invention, the wrap angle curve, or wrap angle, as a function of the roll diameter is changed, when needed, *after each set change* such that the desired roll structure is achieved. [Emphasis added.]” Perhaps the examiner reads the claim language as winding a “first web” into a roll, and winding a “second web” into a roll, when the term “web roll” simply refers to the roll comprised of the wound web. To clarify that two separate rolls are referred to, the claim has been amended to substitute the terms “first roll” and “second roll”.

Claims 12 and 19 have been amended to clarify the alternative language.

Section 103 rejections

JP '632

The examiner alleges that “JP '632 discloses applicant’s claimed invention, as shown in figures 1-2.” The examiner contends that “measuring a hardness distribution of the web

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roll and changing the wrap angle in response to the measured hardness distribution is inherently taught since the wrap angle can change from the start values to desired values, see paragraph [0008].” The translation of JP ’632 supplied by the examiner lacks idiomatic English usage. Applicant has obtained a professional translation which is submitted herewith, and which clarifies the disclosure.

JP ’632 discloses a method for winding films, in particular thin films such as PET on to a roll core in order to prevent wrinkles forming at high winding speeds (§ 4). The JP ’632 method discloses positioning a guide roller to define a lap angle which is between 5 to 30 degrees to reduce or eliminate the film wrinkling. The JP ’632 method does not, however, disclose measuring the roll hardness distribution of a wound roll, nor does it disclose adjusting the lap (wrap) angle in response to such a measurement as in applicant’s claimed invention. The JP ’632 disclosed method examines the presence of “surface layer wrinkles”, but does not suggest in any way a measurement of roll hardness distribution.

The examiner contends that JP ’632 “discloses changing the wrap angle, which inherently changes the roll hardness distribution of the roll.” Yet there is no suggestion in JP ’632 of selecting a desired roll hardness distribution, of measuring a roll hardness distribution, or of adjusting any variable to achieve a desired roll hardness distribution. Without any suggestion in the applied reference of these claim elements, the examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness based on JP ’632.

Müller et al.

The examiner contends that “Muller ’117 discloses applicant’s claimed invention.” Müller et al., however, discloses a device for winding dry or oiled metal strips into rolls. Setting aside the not insubstantial differences between a fibrous web and a steel strip, there is nevertheless no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of selecting a desired roll hardness distribution, of measuring a roll hardness distribution, or of adjusting any variable to achieve a desired roll hardness distribution. The examiner believes that “measuring a hardness distribution of the web roll and changing the wrap angle in response to the measured hardness

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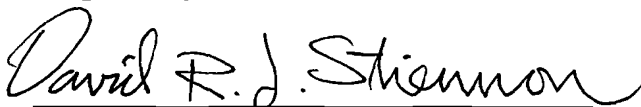
distribution is inherently taught....” by Müller et al. The examiner reasons that these process steps which are nowhere found in the reference are inherent “since the wrap angle can change from one position to another.” Although the examiner’s line of reasoning is not clear, there can be no doubt that Müller et al. does not contemplate adjusting the wrap angle in response to hardness distribution measurements. That the wrap angle of Müller et al.’s invention can change would not suggest to one skilled in the art applicant’s claimed process steps of measuring a hardness distribution of a web roll and in response to the measured hardness distribution changing the wrap angle until the selected roll hardness structure or distribution is achieved. The examiner points out that “Muller ‘117 discloses changing the wrap angle, which inherently changes the roll hardness distribution of the roll.” As noted above, there is no suggestion of even any interest in roll hardness distribution. Therefore, it cannot be construed as suggesting a step of measuring roll hardness distribution. Although any physical property may be inherently measured, and some other step taken to modify the physical property, it is applicant’s claimed invention to set out what properties are measured, and what steps are taken to modify that property. The references do not show applicant’s claimed steps, nor are they inherent therein.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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